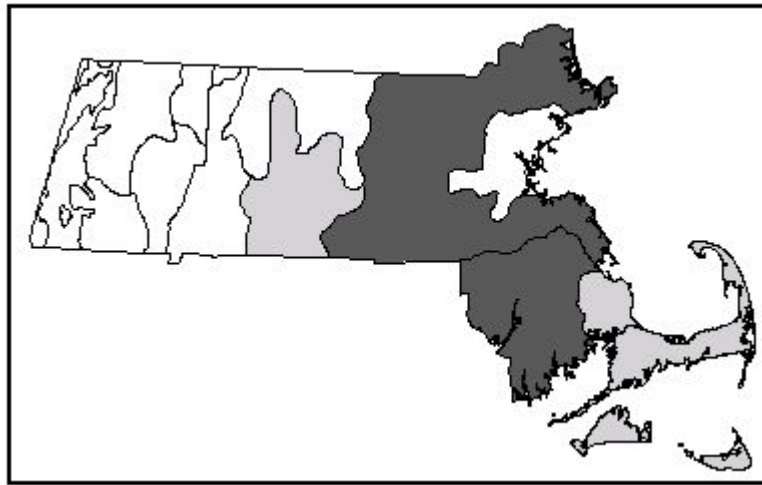


**Community Name:** ALLUVIAL RED MAPLE SWAMP  
**Community ELCODE:** CP1A2A1A00  
**SRANK:** S3



- Concept:** A richer variant of red maple swamp that occurs in low areas along rivers and streams that experience overbank flooding.
- Environmental setting:** Alluvial red maple swamp forests occur along mainstem sections of smaller rivers in eastern Massachusetts (Nashua, Merrimack, Shawmut, Concord, and Three Mile). They experience overbank flooding, but they appear to be more poorly drained than true floodplain forests. Soils are typically silt loams with pronounced soil mottling and a surface organic layer.
- Vegetation Description:** The overstory of alluvial red maple swamps is characterized by a mixture of red maple (*A. rubrum*) and silver maple (*Acer saccharinum*; particularly along riverbanks) with lesser amounts of green ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*) and / or swamp white oak (*Quercus bicolor*). Red oak (*Q. rubra*), white pine (*Pinus strobus*), and black cherry (*Prunus serotina*) occur in elevated sections. Unlike true floodplain forests, alluvial swamp forests have well-developed shrub layers composed of northern arrow-wood (*Viburnum dentatum* var. *lucidum*), silky dogwood (*Cornus amomum*), and the non-native plant European buckthorn (*Rhamnus frangula*). The herbaceous layer is often dominated by sensitive fern (*Onoclea sensibilis*) and false nettle (*Boehmeria cylindrica*) mixed with a rich assemblage of herbaceous species that commonly includes royal fern (*Osmunda regalis*), awned sedge (*Carex crinita*), and bugleweeds (*Lycopus* spp.).
- Associations:** One association was described in Kearsley (1999a): Type V-Alluvial swamp forests (*Acer rubrum*-*A. saccharinum*-*Q. bicolor* Association).
- Habitat values for Associated Fauna:** Alluvial red maple swamps, especially at the upland fringe or in old meander scars and oxbows, can function as vernal pool habitat if water remains standing for 2-3 months and they lack fish; these areas provide important amphibian breeding habitat. Riverine odonates use adjacent alluvial red maple swamps for shelter.

**Associated Rare Plants:**

BETULA NIGRA	RIVER BIRCH	- WL
CAREX TYPHINA	CAT-TAIL SEDGE	T

**Associated rare animals:**

CLEMMYS GUTTATA	SPOTTED TURTLE	SC
CLEMMYS INSULPTA	WOOD TURTLE	SC
EMYDOIDEA BLANDINGII	BLANDING'S TURTLE	T
GOMPHUS VASTUS	COBRA CLUBTAIL	SC
GOMPHUS VENTRICOSUS	SKILLET CLUBTAIL	SC

From: Swain, P.C. & J.B. Kearsley. 2001. Classification of the Natural Communities of Massachusetts. Version 1.3. Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program, Division of Fisheries & Wildlife. Westborough, MA.

Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program, Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife

NEUROCORDULIA OBSOLETA	UMBER SHADOWDRAGON	SC
OPHIOGOMPHUS ASPERSUS	BROOK SNAKETAIL	SC
OPHIOGOMPHUS CAROLUS	RIFFLE SNAKETAIL	T
SOMATOCHLORA CINGULATA	LAKE EMERALD	SC
SOMATOCHLORA ELONGATA	SKI-TAILED EMERALD	SC
SOMATOCHLORA GEORGIANA	COPPERY EMERALD	E
SOMATOCHLORA KENNEDYI	KENNEDY'S EMERALD	E
SOMATOCHLORA LINEARIS	MOCHA EMERALD	SC

<b>Examples with Public Access:</b>	Ox Bow NWR, Nashua River; Harvard; sections of the Blackstone and Concord Rivers.		
<b>Threats:</b>	Invasion of non-native plant species, including moneywort ( <i>Lysimachia nummularia</i> ) and European buckthorn ( <i>Rhamnus frangula</i> ).		
<b>Management needs:</b>	Removal of non-native plant species.		
<b>Synonyms</b>			
<b>USNVC/TNC:</b>	Acer rubrum-Fraxinus ( <i>pennsylvanica</i> , <i>americana</i> )/Lindera benzoin/Symplocarpus foetidus forest [CEGL006406]; Quercus bicolor-Acer rubrum/Carpinus caroliniana forest [CEGL006386]; Acer rubrum/Carex stricta-Onoclea sensibilis woodland [CEGL006119].		
<b>MA [old name]:</b>	Southern New England stream bottom forest [CT2B2A0000].		
<b>ME:</b>	Part of Hardwood floodplain forest community and /or Red maple swamp community.		
<b>VT:</b>	Not described.		
<b>NH:</b>	Red maple floodplain forest.		
<b>NY:</b>	Similar to Silver maple-ash swamp.		
<b>CT:</b>	Similar to Acer rubrum/Lindera benzoin community but with swamp white oak.		
<b>RI:</b>	May be included within Acer rubrum-deciduous shrub swamp.		
<b>Golet &amp; Larson, 1974:</b>	Deciduous wooded swamp (WS-1).		
<b>Other:</b>			
<b>Author:</b>	J. Kearsley	<b>Date:</b>	7/21/99